

Fire of 1805

Historical Marker

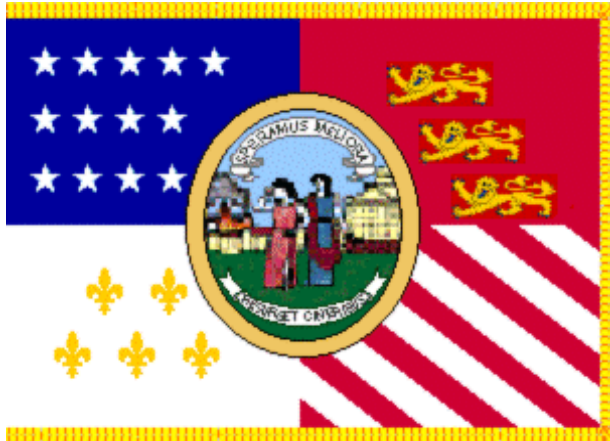
Address: Michigan & Washington Blvd.

Local

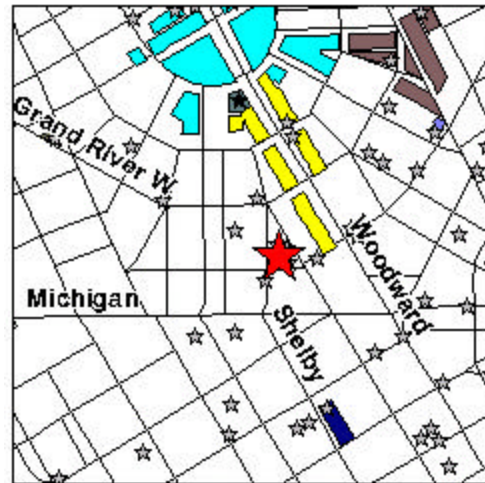
State v 8/25/56

State Marker

National



City of Detroit Flag



Historic Overview:

The fire of 1805 burned the city of Detroit to the ground. The fire started in the morning hours of June 11 in a stable at the western end of Ste. Anne Street. Men formed a bucket brigade from the river to the stable but it soon engulfed the building and spread to the surrounding area. By the afternoon the entire city of Detroit was in flames. The fort was spared because of its parade ground and earthen ramparts. Miraculously no one died in the fire.¹

The official state seal designed in 1827 by artist J. O. Lewis is the centerpiece of the City of Detroit's first flag. The symbol shows two women representing Detroit. The crying woman on the left represents Detroit at the time of the fire. The woman on the right is comforting her, representing hope and the future. Behind the two women are two cities, the one in flames on the left and a new and brighter city to the right. Latin words surrounding the picture say "We Hope For Better Things...It Shall Arise From The Ashes."

¹ Mason, Philip Turning Points in Detroit History, Michigan History Magazine, November/December 2000

